

## CHEDDON FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022

In the Committee Room of the Memorial Hall at Cheddon Fitzpaine TA2 8JY

[www.cfpc.co.uk](http://www.cfpc.co.uk)

**Present:** Parish Cllrs Woollacott, Isaacs, Batsch, West, Baker & Wilson, SCC Cllr Cavill and Clerk Mrs S Millard-Jones.

With approximately 6 members of the public.

Cllr Woollacott chaired the meeting.

**08/01 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllrs Deakin, Fothergill, Tully, Pritchard & WM Assistant Clerk Mrs K Welsh.

**08/02 To receive declarations of personal/prejudicial/disclosable pecuniary interests:** Cllr Wilson declared an interest in planning application 08/22/0008/T.

**08/03 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting** held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022. It was **resolved** to approve the Minutes.

#### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

Retired West Monkton (WM) Assistant Clerk Mrs Cavill apologised that she wasn't in attendance for the July meeting where CF PC intended to give her a gift to commemorate her retirement. Mrs Cavill went on to say a huge thank you for her gardening gift voucher that she had already spent as well as thanks for the fellowship, companionship and support over the years which began with the joint neighbourhood plan. Cheddon Fitzpaine (CF) Parish Council (PC) gave thanks to Mrs Cavill for her commitment and hard work over the years that the PC's had worked together.

#### Questions received:

Q: What is happening with the Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

A: An update will be given later on the agenda.

Q: Why aren't the drains emptied ahead of the autumn.

A: SCC would need to answer this. Cllr Cavill to raise.

Q: Is there any way for the pond to fill naturally?

A: No – There is a natural spring, but this has dried out with the hot weather.

Q: How will this possibly fill the pond?

A: The ground level is higher and will enable the pond to be filled.

Q: Other irrigation ponds are surrounded in part by trees and bushes. There doesn't appear to be any raincover, has this been considered?

A: The plants will come in time, they have been put in coir matting.

Q: What is the annual water charge? What was the connection charge?

A: Wessex water have enabled the PC's to use this as a community initiative. This cost will be shared between the parishes.

Q: Weekly evaporation 1.5-3inches per week. Who will foot the bill?

A: Analysis will need to take place at some point as required.

#### **08/04 Reports: SCC**

SCC Cllr Baker:

Duncan Sharkey will become Chief Executive of Somerset County Council.

#### **LCN's**

The plan for the development of new Local Community Networks (LCNs) has now been announced. Having inherited the unitary Council's business case, the Lib Dems are working hard to make sure LCNs support their vision of a fairer, greener, more flourishing Somerset. These LCNs are set to be treated as Committees of the Council, meaning they'll be given specific decision-making powers and influence. Three LCN pilots (Exmoor, Frome and South East Somerset) continue to progress and learning from those is being fed back into the development programme.

A timeline for LCN development is in place as follows:

Consider the role, geographies, governance and funding of LCNs – July 2022.

Refine governance and financial modelling, linked to Medium Term Financial Planning -July to September 2022.

Engage and consult on geographies for LCNs – Autumn 2022.

Publish a formal Decision Paper including a resourcing plan - November 2022.

The Lib Dems are clear that LCNs must be effective, affordable and sustainable. They must suit Somerset's geography, communities and existing infrastructures, and be robust enough to give our residents real responsibility and access to their Councillors in the years ahead.

### **Council Finance Update**

Inflation is hitting the County Council hard, as it is with everyone and every local council in the country. Pay awards, energy costs, building costs are all increasing fast, so the budget approved by the previous County Councillors in February is already way out-of-date. As ever, demand for our services – care for the elderly and infirm, for children, highways, education – is increasing. And the 'unitary bonus' saving of £18.5m annually envisaged by those who decided on a single unitary council looks increasingly unlikely to be realised. The situation is being monitored closely and we'll keep you updated.

### **Children & Young People**

The Children & Young People's Plan has been co-produced by the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership with children and young people, the County Council, the Police and the NHS. It provides clear direction and enables everyone to work better together on shared priorities in order to make very necessary changes to improve outcomes for children, young people and families in Somerset.

### **Somerset Reuse Week**

Organised by Somerset Waste Partnership, this awareness week was devoted to promoting repair and reuse, encouraging more people to consider repairing their broken electrical and electronic stuff and reusing it, rather than throwing away and buying new.

The Fixyvan – known as 'FixyMcFixface' after a public vote -has already visited Chard, Ilminster, Frome and the BlackdownHills and more visits are planned during the summer, with schools and businesses on the list for a visit later in the year. FixyMcFixface will also take and recycle your unwanted electrical and electronic goods.

### **Support for Somerset Households**

Somerset residents struggling to pay their bills could be eligible for support with the cost of food, energy, water and other essentials like fridges, freezers and cookers over the coming months. The County Council is distributing £3.8m before 30th September through the Household Support Fund. To apply, visit the Somerset County Council website and search 'Household Support Fund' online or call 0300 123 2224 and the Council will find an organisation who will support families to make an application.

### **Cost of Living and Ecological Emergencies Declared**

At the Somerset County Council Full Council meeting on Wednesday 20th July, a Liberal Democrat motion declaring a Cost of Living Emergency was passed by the Council with support from all parties except the Conservatives. A Lib Dem-led motion declaring an Ecological Emergency was supported by all Councillors.

The motion, introduced by Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts, called on government to immediately reduce VAT to 17.5% for 12 months (saving the average Somerset household £600 this year), to re-introduce the pensions triple lock and to restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20 which was heartlessly removed by the Conservative government in September 2021.

In addition, the Council has joined other local councils in calling for a Cost of Living Summit to bring together local businesses, charities and MPs to share experiences and ideas to tackle the crisis.

### **Ecological Emergency**

The Ecological Emergency motion, proposed by Cllr Sarah Dyke, reaffirmed the council's commitment in ensuring that 'tackling the climate and nature emergencies' policies are at the heart of everything the council does and is embedded into the decision-making processes. The motion also sets out a plan to ensure that across the county biodiversity is improved, environments enriched, and the destruction of habitats is resisted when development occurs.

It also specifically calls out the Council's role as a Lead Partner in delivering a strategy with a set of clear actions to bring about a reversal of the negative impacts on the natural environment and biodiversity whilst also mitigating against the possibility of further decline or damage on the habitats, flora and fauna of Somerset.

SCC Cllr Norman Cavill:

**Local Government Reorganisation:** Following the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) decision to support the move to a single Unitary Council across Somerset, vesting day for the new Unitary Council remains as 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

**Local Community Networks:** At the July Full Council Somerset County Council voted to endorse supporting fully funded Local Community Networks as part of the transition to a Unitary authority. The geography of the proposed LCN's, which was due last month, is now expected over the summer with more details as to their constitution and responsibilities.

**Council Tax consultation:** A consultation on council tax support for the new unitary Somerset Council has been launched. This is the first major policy consultation for the new council and it proposes that the lowest income households across Somerset get 100% council tax relief. This is a substantial increase as Somerset's four district councils currently offer varying levels of council tax support. Maximum relief is set at 80% to 85% in most parts of the county, only in South Somerset is 100% relief available. The proposed changes would harmonise support for working-age people on low incomes across the county and come into effect on 1 April 2023, with the creation of the new Council. The consultation runs until 19 September and can be found at [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SomersetCTRLIVE/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SomersetCTRLIVE/)

**Trading Standards:** Somerset and Devon Trading Standards recently seized illegal tobacco estimated to be worth more than £200,000 in raids in Devon and Somerset. The seizure is one of the largest of its kind by the service. The recent operations means that the service, has now seized illicit tobacco worth more than £310,000 across the service area during 2021 and 2022.

**World Breastfeeding week:** SCC's Public Health Team are encouraging people to nominate public places that are 'positive about breastfeeding.' As part of World Breastfeeding Awareness Week, 1 to 7 August, the Council is again promoting its 'Positive About Breastfeeding' scheme. The scheme aims to strengthen the support for breastfeeding in commercial, health and community settings, creating more positive environments for breastfeeding in Somerset. World Breastfeeding Week seeks to inform, educate and empower workplaces and communities to strengthen their capacity to provide and sustain breast-feeding friendly environments for families.

[https://cypsomersethealth.org/?ks=1&page=positive\\_about\\_breastfeeding](https://cypsomersethealth.org/?ks=1&page=positive_about_breastfeeding)

**Wheelchair and community equipment:** Somerset County Council and NHS Somerset are this month launching a new Community Equipment and Wheelchair Service to help people live more independently. Previously running as two separate services, (a Community Equipment Service and separate Wheelchair Service). The new service will provide a range of equipment to help people live independently, offering loans to people for as long they need them. The service will also include delivery and fitting, servicing, collection, and recycling. More information is available at [www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/equipment-to-help-you/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/equipment-to-help-you/)

**Tackling violence against women and girls:** Somerset County and North Somerset Council's have jointly secured an additional £317,694 from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund to continue to make public spaces and streets safer for women and girls. This additional funding will allow the councils to focus on anti-social behaviour concerns that contribute to the fear of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) by targeting resources at four locations – Taunton, Bridgwater, Weston-super-Mare and Yeovil. The areas identified experience VAWG related crime, anti-social behaviour and low feelings of safety for people within those communities.

**Ecological Emergency:** SCC has voted to put additional focus into protecting Somerset's natural environment and biodiversity by declaring an Ecological Emergency. The Council previously declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and has since worked with Somerset's four District Councils and other partners to develop the Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy "[Towards a climate resilient Somerset](#)". The Ecological Emergency work will complement the existing Climate Emergency 'Natural Environment' actions with a renewed focus on land management, biodiversity, and natural habitats.

**Somerset Business Climate Summit:** The Somerset Business Climate Summit 2022 will take place at Queens College in Taunton on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September between 10am and 1pm. The Summit will highlight best practice and raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges for businesses as we shift toward a low carbon economy. Businesses will be encouraged examine their current business models and make pledges to reduce their carbon footprints. Details can be found at [www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency/climate-emergency-businesses/climate-summit/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency/climate-emergency-businesses/climate-summit/)

**Community Governance Review (CGR):** Closing date for the CGR has passed. SCC were Incredibly short of responses from the unparished area and therefore canvassed in the town centre on a Saturday afternoon to drum up more responses. In total it is thought that there were 471 response.

**Phosphates:** DC is putting out £3.54 million half of which will be spent acquiring land and using the agricultural aspect for phosphates and the other half will be used for water reduction equipment.

**SWT:** No report

#### 08/05 **Joint Projects with West Monkton:**

a. **Maidenbrook Country Park & Somerset Wood: (R) To approve the additional premium to cover the pond for material damage.** Following on from the July meeting, the solicitor dealing with the lease of the Country Park (CP) requested a copy of the minutes to prove that the clerks were authorised to sign the documents and then a query was raised that CFPC minutes were in draft form (as were WM). CF and WM PC's managed to get another solicitor to sign the documents for free.

An invoice had been given for £1,973.52 for cedar shingles. On paying the invoice the Clerk queried it with Benjamin Henry as the invoice was from Tile Warehouse. The Clerk learned that the invoice had already been paid and that it was only the original quote of £1,000 that was due. Credit notes have since been produced for WM as they had transferred £347.85, which was the initial overspend divided by both PC's. This has been returned. It was **resolved** to return the remaining funds to both PC's once the buffer amounts had been credited to the CF PC account.

The lease for the CP has now been signed and is considered complete

Volunteers are needed for mowing at the CP.

Concerns regarding ongoing vandalism, and many reports have been submitted to the police.

The PC had received a quote for additional insurance premium to cover the pond for material damage. It was **resolved** to approve the cost of £246.06.

#### b. **Neighbourhood Plan Review:**

The Independent Examiners (IE) report has now been received and Ann Rhodes has emailed the Ward Councillors the draft Record of Decision taken by Executive Council for their comment. This begins the formal process of accepting the Examiners Report. In addition, Ann Rhodes will send a copy to go on the SWT examination page for the West Monkton and Cheddon Fitzpaine NDP Review. The document will then have 2 weeks of public scrutiny, although as it was approved by an independent inspector the IE is not concerned that there will be any challenges. It will then need approval by Full Council and by referendum (possibly in October). Electoral Services are hoping to start the referendum on the 22nd September, assuming that various notices can be published.

Paper copies going into Council offices, Memorial Hall and West Monkton village hall.

#### c. **Community Fridge:**

An incident occurred within the first few days of opening where some children had taken some eggs and then smashed them on a residents fence, as a result, Assistant Clerk Community confirmed that she went to the Primary School and talked about the community fridge; how it is about reducing waste as well as

helping families in need. Assistant Clerk Community confirmed that she is going to try to link in with the School Council to get students ideas on other initiatives.

The turnover of food in the fridge is really high, local residents are really engaged and children's books in particular are going really quickly. Posters are going up at the allotments requesting surplus fresh produce and new volunteers are coming forward. Applications have been made for Fairshare and volunteers from Olio are also leaving food at the fridge. Environmental Health have attended and awarded a 5 star rating. Posters are going up reminding users of the CF that they can recycle their soft plastic waste at the local Co-ops.

Hestercombe Gardens are looking to contribute.

The Community Garden is taking shape at the front of the BACH with some raised beds having been delivered by Monkton Elm.

#### **08/06 Community Governance Review**

The Clerk had been invited to a meeting with members of SWT to primarily understand the PC's thinking in relation to the budget setting for next year. This had been scheduled for the third week in August.

Cllr Woollacott explained that this item should be split into a public and confidential session and that the confidential session would take place at the end of the meeting primarily to avoid putting any DCllrs in conflict.

It was **resolved** to have a confidential session at the end of the meeting in order to conclude the discussion surrounding the CGR.

Thanks was given to Cllr Batsch for arranging to get the fliers and documentation out to households across the parish.

#### **08/07 Cheddon Ward:**

The Clerk confirmed that the sinking pavement at the front of 91 Maidenbrook Lane has finally been fixed and thanked Cllr Baker for his intervention.

#### **08/08 Maidenbrook:**

The attenuation pond hasn't been maintained as promised, which was to frequently cut back a 2 metre area around the pond to stop weeds creeping into the surrounding gardens. Dan Mancini has been contacted for an update.

An update has been received from Andrew Webber at Vistry regarding the adoption of the Maidenbrook estate advising that there hasn't been much progress and in fact his current focus is on road and sewer adoptions so unfortunately progressing matters such as this one has dropped down the 'to do list'. This has been escalated to Claire Thackeray at SWT who explains that she continues to be working in Leasehold Services and suggested contacting Kate Hicks (SWT), which has been done previously to no avail. The Clerk awaits a response.

General overgrowth had been reported on the estate.

The Clerk has a scheduled meeting with a contractor regarding the bus shelter to check clearance and design on 17<sup>th</sup> August.

Cllrs requested that the Clerk speak with highways to arrange for the white lines to be redirected on the Summerleaze cycle crossing.

#### **08/09 Highways:**

Highways don't have existing signage that would be suitable for the CP to remind users to park sensibly – pictures have been sent over of the site and it sits with Kate Brown at Traffic Management

#### **08/10 Planning Applications:**

**08/22/0008/T** Application to fell one multi-stemmed Ash tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Cheddon Fitzpaine No.1) Tree Preservation Order 1997 at The Old Rectory, Cheddon Fitzpaine (TD707)

Cllr Wilson declared an interest and abstained from voting.

It was **resolved** that the PC is in support of the tree specialist advice given by David Galley.

**34/21/0017** Formation of 2 No. integrated constructed wetlands (ICW) including associated plant, infrastructure, landscaping and on-site redistribution of materials on land off Langford Lane, Longfield and land off Nailsborne Road, Nailsbourne  
 To note that amended plans are being consulted on.

**08/11 Planning Decisions:**

**08/22/0001/HYB** Application for a Hybrid Planning application for Outline Planning permission with some matters reserved (except access, scale and layout) for an extension to the country park and the development of facilities within Maidenbrook Country Park (Natural World Centre/Restaurant/Farm Shop/Observatory and Open Air Theatre), Outline Planning permission (including access) for a phased development of 70 No. dwellings (including 25% affordable homes) with associated highways improvements, orchard and the provision of additional public rights of way, landscaping and ecological enhancements and Full Planning permission for the erection of 16 No. dwellings (including 25% affordable homes) on land at Glebe Farm, Cheddon Fitzpaine  
 To note that this planning application has been withdrawn.

**08/12 Reports:**

**Church:** Reverend Mary Styles was on leave  
**Nerrols:** Closed for the summer holidays  
**Cheddon School:** Closed for the summer holidays  
**Memorial Hall:** Successfully acquired some new trustees.  
**Footpaths:** Volunteer Ian has been away and is now busy catching up with his day job.

**08/13 Administration:**

The Clerk had submitted an Expression of Interest form for the Community Review programme successful PC's will be informed by close of business 9<sup>th</sup> August.  
 WM Assistant Clerk had asked whether the PC would be in support of a joint Community Car Scheme which is about helping local residents attend appointments, get shopping etc. The PC were in support of considering this project in more detail.

**08/14 Free trees:**

SWT is once again offering Parish and Town Councils across the district free trees as part of its commitment to work towards carbon neutrality and climate resilience by 2030. There are a good range of trees available to choose from and the PC can acquire up to £100 worth of trees.  
 The Clerk plans to contact Nerrols and Cheddon Fitzpaine Primary schools to see if they would be interested in acquiring some of the trees on offer.

**08/15 Finance:**

**a) Approval of Payments & Receipts (R)**

**Payments**

To whom	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Pay Date	Confirmed on bank Statement
S Millard-Jones	June Salary, Homeworking & Mileage, PAYE & NI (-NEST)	£1,075.47	£5.25	£1,080.72	31/08/22	
Character Graphics	CGR Questionnaire	£300.00	£	£300.00	09/08/22	
SWT	Bin invoice (incorrect)	£10.00	£	£10.00	09/08/22	

ICO	Data protection renewal	£40.00	£	£40.00	09/08/22	
Zurich Insurance	Amendment to policy to cover material damage to the pond	£246.06	£	£246.06	09/08/22	

**Debit Card/Direct Debit: To note:**

To whom	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Pay Date	Confirmed on bank Statement
SWS	Email addresses	£36.80	£7.36	£44.16	02/08/22	
NEST	Pension	£35.72	£	£35.72	29/08/22	
Microsoft	Monthly Subscription	£9.40	£1.88	£11.28	19/08/22	
SWS	Hosting Inv	£24.00	£4.80	£28.80	20/08/22	

**Receipts: To note:**


**Country Park**

To whom	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Pay Date	Confirmed on bank Statement

It was **resolved to pay** the above by cheque/internet banking

**b) Approval of the bank reconciliation (R)**

Main Account	£46,782.81
CIL Account	£21.44
NSI Account	£3,123.62
CP Account	£137.44
Total	£49,868.83

It was **resolved** to approve the bank reconciliation

**c) To note the Country Park VAT claim**

The Clerk had submitted a claim for £166.67

**08/16 Correspondence:** All circulated

**08/17 Matters raised by Councillors:**

Councillors reverted to item 08/06 to discuss the CGR within a confidential session.

Cllr Baker left the meeting due to nature of the discussion.

The meeting was closed to the press and members of the public in line with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to discuss legal proceedings surrounding the process of the CGR.

It was **resolved** to instruct barrister Tim Taylor to submit a letter on behalf of CFPC to legally challenge the abolition of the CFPC. To note that one Councillor abstained from the vote.

**08/18 Items for next agenda:**

- Telephone box
- CP signage

**2022 Dates:** 12<sup>th</sup> September. 10<sup>th</sup> October. 14th November. 5th December.

Meeting closed at 9.47pm

.....  
Chair

DRAFT